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CELEBRATING THE LEGION'S CENTENARY

Marking the Legion's centenary and
looking to our next 100 years



LET'S CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

Dear Member,

Please may I send my best wishes for 2021.

Last year was undoubtedly challenging but despite the restrictions, Members in the UK and abroad managed to commemorate key anniversaries and support the Poppy Appeal. The pandemic has affected many individuals and communities and our Membership and Armed Forces community were no exception.

I want to thank all of you for the amazing way you have responded to our beneficiaries' needs in these difficult times. Something as simple as calling a fellow Member to foster comradeship and ensure no one is forgotten, or allowing local food banks to use RBL Clubs as their base during the lockdown, made a real difference to people's lives. To everyone who has been working quietly in the background looking after members, veterans and our community, Thank You.

Those returning from the war a 100 years ago found that their land was not fit for heroes. It was the trigger for forming the Legion in 1921, when Members provided for their welfare in a most caring way. This month we begin our celebrations recognising the 100 years of support that we couldn't have achieved without Members supporting our Armed Forces community.

It is a year to reflect on all our achievements and I am excited about the activities we are hoping to enjoy together this year as we plan for our future. We start 2021 bringing in our new brand identity

that I believe will open a new chapter in our history as we look ahead to supporting the Armed Forces community for the next 100 years.

I'd like to thank you once again for all you did in 2020 and I look forward to sharing our centenary celebrations with you all.

Best Wishes,

Una Cleminson

Una Cleminson BEM TD



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LAST YEAR'S POPPY APPEAL

The past few months and the beginning of this new year have been challenging but it is thanks to everyone's contribution, from donating money and time to raising funds, that we're able to support the Armed Forces community. We also remember all those who served and sacrificed over the years as well as those who are serving now, defending our way of life and working tirelessly to protect us from the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Watch the video >](#)



JOIN OUR VIRTUAL EVENT TO LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW BRAND IDENTITY

How we present ourselves is vitally important as we look to our next 100 years. After a thorough process and input from across the Legion including members, we are now ready to launch our new identity that is fit for the future, whilst keeping the poppy at our heart. Join us for a virtual event on **18 January** to learn more about the story behind the new brand identity and what it means for members, before it launches at the end of January.

[Find out more and sign up >](#)



CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS MADE BY THE ROYAL FAMILY

In 2019, members of The Royal Family prepared Christmas puddings that became the centrepieces of last year's first 'Together at Christmas' events organised by the Legion. The special puddings were delivered to people who attended virtual get togethers, meeting others from the Armed Forces community. Among them, a WW2 veteran Dennis Woollons, who is President of the Willerby Kirk Ella & Anlaby Branch and a telephone buddy volunteer.

[Read the stories >](#)



TELLING OUR STORY THROUGH 100 YEARS OF OUR MEMBERS

As we approach the Legion's centenary, we are collecting members' stories, photos, and memorabilia for a digital library to showcase everything the Legion has achieved in our first 100 years. Nothing is too old or too new, too big or too small - it is important that every member has the opportunity to tell their story and celebrate all that we do. Take a look at some of the submissions we've received so far that we hope will inspire you to share yours.

[Find out more >](#)

Did you know that...



Elizabeth College pupils in Guernsey created a Poppy on their playing fields to support the Poppy Appeal.



The Sussex County received a £10,000 donation from the Sussex Masonic Charitable Foundation in support of the Poppy Appeal.



THE ARMED FORCES SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Since the beginning of the pandemic the Armed Forces have stepped in to support the Covid-19 response across the country from helping to construct Nightingale field hospitals, to supporting the roll out of mass testing. Lieutenant Douglas Bartlett and his team were deployed to assist at Harrogate Nightingale Hospital and support the first mass Covid-19 testing operation in Liverpool.

[Find out more >](#)



A MILITARY NURSE WORKING IN THE NHS CRITICAL CARE

Cpl Apassara Wichaisri, had always wanted to join the Army and become a nurse. Specialising in critical care, Apassara believes her military training helped her to adapt to the unprecedented circumstances that Covid-19 presented. When news of the pandemic began to surface Apassara was working in the NHS and had just moved to a new hospital in North Yorkshire to work in Critical Care.

[Read the story >](#)

Centenary stories

Legion Magazine is putting together a guide for how branches can celebrate the RBL's centenary this year – if you'd like to inspire your fellow members and get some publicity for your branch, tell the team what you are planning for 2021 by emailing: MembersMag@britishlegion.org.uk

Going back in time

From The Royal British Legion Magazine November, 1927

The coffin of the 'Unknown Warrior' at Boulogne awaiting transhipment to England, on 10th November 1920.

“ AND THEY BURIED HIM AMONGST THE KINGS.”



**THE COFFIN OF THE “UNKNOWN WARRIOR” AT BOULOGNE
AWAITING TRANSHIPMENT TO ENGLAND, ON
10th NOVEMBER, 1920.**

This month's poll

2020 was a difficult year, but the Membership and Armed Forces community adapted to the circumstances and commemorated key anniversaries, raised funds and looked after one another. Which of the following are your most memorable moments from last year?

1. Branches and the Nation commemorating VE Day, VJ Day and other anniversaries with virtual or physical events
2. People supporting the Poppy Appeal and finding innovative ways to raise funds
3. The community coming together to take care of those most vulnerable
4. Members' resilience and willingness to adapt to the current circumstances
5. Armed Forces supporting the national response to the pandemic
6. Other

Take part in the poll >

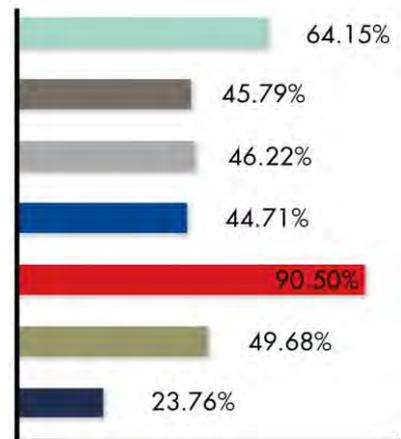
Last month's poll

With the difficulties of the pandemic, in which of the following ways have you paid tribute to the

Armed Forces community past and present?

465 Participants

1. Take part in the two minute silence from home - 64.15%
2. Attend socially distanced Remembrance service - 45.79%
3. Attend digital Remembrance activity from home including the Festival of Remembrance and Cenotaph service - 46.22%
4. Perform personal act of Remembrance - 44.71%
5. Wear a Poppy - 90.50%
6. Put a Poppy poster or other display in my window - 49.68%
7. Other - 23.76%



ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO JOIN

Our members play a vital role in ensuring that The Royal British Legion can continue to provide support to the Armed Forces community as well as upholding the importance of Remembrance. Share this email with others you think might be interested in Legion membership.

[Join now!](#)

If you have any questions about the e-newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about your membership card or want to change your home or email address please contact our Membership Services team MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk

Best wishes,

Dimitra Nikolakopoulou
Membership Communications Officer
membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk

FOLLOW THE LEGION



QUICK LINKS

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CONTACT US

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